

Obama unveils gun control policy

By DANIELLE STALLWORTH

For the past few years, gun violence has been on the rise in the United States. An FBI report from 2014 found that the average number of active shooter events had jumped from six to 16 between 2000 and 2013.

Despite his past efforts, President Barack Obama has not been able to enforce stricter gun laws. On Jan. 5, 2016, he held a press conference at the White House and formally announced his new strategy to reduce gun violence and reinforce existing gun control laws in America.

Audience members included families affected by gun violence as well as victims. A more prominent moment came when the president shed a tear as he mentioned the Sandy Hook shooting in which 20 elementary school children were killed.

The president's main proposal will require that anyone in the business of selling firearms must be licensed and perform background checks on buyers. This includes gun stores, gun shows and online sales, where background checks are not usually enforced.

Additionally, the president suggested a \$500 million investment to increase access to mental health care. The Department of Health and Human Services will allow states to report significant information concerning people who can't have firearms for mental health reasons.

The president requested more funding to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to hire 200 new agents to help enforce current gun laws. The ATF would also create an



In the Blue Room of the White House, President Barack Obama talks with people whose lives have been impacted by gun violence, prior to announcing executive actions that the administration is taking to reduce gun violence, Jan. 5, 2016.

Internet Investigation Center run by a committed staff to keep track of illegal firearm sales online.

Other actions include requiring licensed dealers who ship guns to notify law enforcement if their guns are lost or stolen and hiring over 230 examiners to process background checks in a renovated system.

Obama explained to the audience that no other advanced country has the kind of frequent mass gun violence that America has.

"Somehow we become numb to it, and we start to feel that this is normal," he said at the press

conference. "And instead of thinking about how to solve the problem, this has become one of our most polarized, partisan debates, despite the fact that there's a general consensus in America about what needs to be done."

The president's plans to reduce gun violence without the help of Congress have been greeted with mixed reactions. Many celebrities have spoken out in support of his plans and utilized the hashtag "#StopGunViolence."

Meanwhile, the president

"...this has become one of our most polarized, partisan debates, despite the fact that there's a general consensus in America about what needs to be done."

immediately received backlash from Republican presidential candidates for going around Congress, even though his plan is constitutionally legal. Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) tweeted that

he planned to "fight Obama's executive orders tooth and nail." Obama stated that he knows this plan will not solve every violent crime in America. "It's not going to prevent every mass shooting. It's not going to keep every gun out of the hands of a criminal," Obama told reporters. "It will potentially save lives in this country and spare families the pain of these extraordinary losses that they've suffered."

University bans hoverboards on campus

By GABE GANNON

On Jan. 7, University of Montevallo Housing and Residence Life announced a temporary ban on hoverboards on campus, stating the devices "may not be operated, charged or stored inside any UM building, including courtyards, patios or balcony areas." The policy explicitly states the devices may not be used inside University buildings but does not say anything about their use elsewhere on campus.

John Denson, director of housing, stated that the policy was instituted due to safety concerns raised by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

Denson noted "This is a campus wide policy, not just Residence Halls. Our main concern about this device is the threat of fire." Like any other potential fire hazard, the boards will not be allowed in the Residence Halls due to the threat they present.

For students who live on campus, violating the policy will lead to immediate

consequences. Students found to be in possession of a hoverboard inside of a Residence Hall will incur an automatic write-up, accompanied by a fine. Students who were unaware of the policy before returning to school are instructed to either leave their board in the box or take it off campus.

Despite the popularity of hoverboards during the recent holiday season, UM students seem to support the temporary ban. Several students expressed support for the policy on the safety front, while others seem to think that it should be obvious that this is not allowed without the issuance of an official rule.

Senior Brandon Perez stated "There shouldn't be hoverboards in the Residence Hall, period. You wouldn't ride a bike or a skateboard inside, so why would you ride this? It should be common sense."

These apparent issues are becoming more and more prevalent with 22 fires reported in 17 states, according to the CPSC. There have been numerous reports of explosions



Students caught with a hoverboard in any University buildings can expect an automatic write up and hefty fine.

and other similar incidents.

In December, a resident of Gulf Shores, Alabama suffered major injuries when his hoverboard exploded under his feet after being charged.

In addition to this, many

injuries are sustained from not wearing proper safety equipment, including a helmet.

UM is not alone in their updated policy. Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University, the University

of Alabama, the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Auburn University have instituted similar bans, pending further research into the true hazard of hoverboards.

Hunger games: starved & stressed

By REED STRENGTH

I always look fondly upon finals week. Though university traditions like Founders' Day and College Night unify the school in more prominent ways, finals week has always felt like the grand equalizer to me.

To me, the greatest example of this unity can be found in the library. Students from all majors, classifications and College Night sides fill each nook and cranny of the building with papers, laptops and caffeine in all its forms. There is a collective synergy in the building as each student works on a different project under the shared goal of survival.

However, last semester, a similar bastion of student comfort was sacrificed: the caf.

On Tuesday, Dec. 8, students venturing to the caf around noon were greeted by an unexpected and unwelcome site: a massive herd of preteen children.

The kids were there to participate in the Shelby County Middle School Choir competition. Surely they were nervous and excited to temporarily be "college kids" and share a meal with us.

Their numbers prevented the share part from happening. The choir students were stuffed in a messy line that surged from the caf kitchen all the way to the pizza station.

For UM students, it was a depressing and maddening sight. We were there to fill our bellies and absorb the energy we needed to take on our tests. We were there to temporarily visit with our equally stressed friends and tentatively talk about what grand plans awaited us once the week was over. We were there for comfort.

We were not there to stand in line for 20 minutes, fight for

a seat and scarf down what food we managed to find five minutes before our exam.

To be fair, any day you remove the main source of food for any number of college kids will result in an outcry of absolute betrayal and tense frustration.

Yik Yak, otherwise an unruly online garbage bin for college thoughts, seemed unified that af-

ternoon in a collective protest against whichever powers that be conferred this fate upon the student body.

"Why?" it collectively asked. "Why would any university cast a curse of children on us in the middle of finals week?"

To be fair, the kids can't be blamed. Even they were inconvenienced by their sheer mass

crowded into the food lines. The caf can't be blamed either, as Chef Jason Quarles sent an email warning of the oncoming masses a few hours beforehand.

But it was preventable. There could have been efforts made to feed the children on a different part of the campus. Or if the choir concert had to be in Palmer, the University should've asked

that it be done on the Friday of finals week. Or even the week before.

A month later, I now speak from a relative place of calm. I would like to ask the University to please consider scheduling massive visitor days during a time when the majority of the student body isn't in a fit of stress and frustration.



Katie Compton/ The Alabamian

On Dec. 8, UM students' plans for lunch were complicated by those participating in the Shelby County Middle School Choir Competition.



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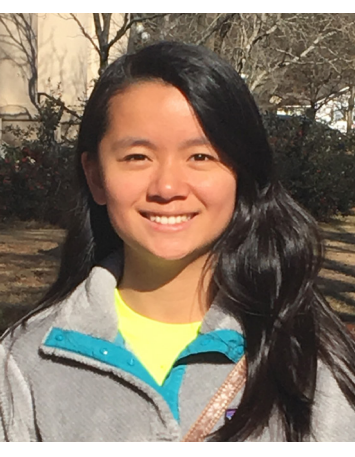
Meetings

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with
Madison Griggs

1. What was your favorite part of the break?
2. Have you broken any New Year's resolutions yet?
3. What do you hope to achieve this semester?
4. What might keep you from achieving your goals?



Alana Davis
Sophomore Elementary Education major

1. "Just getting done with finals and relaxing."
2. "I honestly didn't make any. I forgot about it."
3. "To get closer to my goal of becoming a teacher."
4. "Just distractions."

The Alabamian

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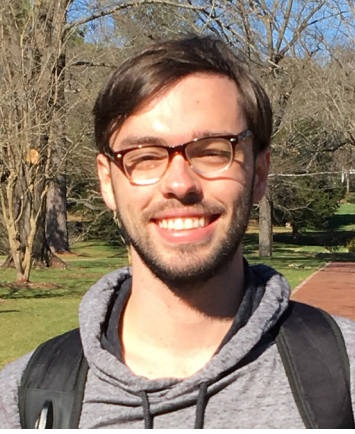
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1. "My sister just had a baby."
2. "I didn't make any."
3. "Stop procrastinating and do my assignments ahead of time."
4. "Social media."



Matt Suddarth
Junior Music Education major

1. "Spending time with my family. It's been a while since I saw them."
2. "I try not to make them because I know I'll break them, and I don't want to let myself down."
3. "Make a 4.0 and have a good time. That's about it."
4. "One; taking 19 credit hours. Two; I'm composing the music for the purple side, and that's very time consuming. Three; hanging out with friends and being lazy."

Rilee Garrett
Freshman Art major

1. "Driving to Huntsville to visit my friend."
2. "Not yet, but give me another week or two."
3. "I hope to make better grades."
4. "Friends and distractions."



Kendal Johnson
Junior Art major

1. "Christmas Day."
2. "No, but I probably will."
3. "I want to bring my GPA up."
4. "The caf."

2015 in review

By DANIELLE STALLWORTH

Jan. 7: 12 were killed in a terrorist attack on Charlie Hebdo, a satirical magazine based in Paris. The two shooters claimed to belong to a subgroup of Al-Qaeda in Yemen. The magazine’s jokes about Islamic leaders and its controversial depiction of the Prophet Muhammad were said to be the main motive for the attack. The slogan “Je suis Charlie” was adopted around the world in support of the magazine.

April 24: Caitlyn Jenner came out as transgender in an interview with Diane Sawyer of ABC News. In June, the 66 year-old debuted her new identity on the cover of Vanity Fair magazine and in a documentary titled “Call Me Caitlyn.”

May 2: Five-division world champion boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. defeated eight-division world champion Manny Pacquiao in what was called “The Fight of the Century.”

May 21: An old police report revealed that Josh Duggar molested five underage girls as a young teen. Four of them were his siblings.

Months later, it was revealed that Duggar had an Ashley Madison account and was unfaithful to his wife. Just in case that was not enough, Duggar was also charged with sexual assault against a pornographic actress.

June 15: Donald Trump launched his campaign for president. He has been stirring up controversy ever since.

June 17: Nine were killed in a mass shooting at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. Police arrested the shooter, 21 year-old Dylann Roof, at a hideout in North Carolina. He claimed he intended to start a race war with the attack.

June 26: In a 5-4 ruling, the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage in all 50 states. Supporters celebrated nationwide, and the White House lit up in rainbow colors that night.

Sept. 1: Google noticeably redesigned their logo. The sleek animated logo was met with mixed reactions and many claims that the company had “ruined people’s childhoods.”

Oct. 23: Adele released her single “Hello.” It became the first song with over a million downloads in its first week.

Nov. 13: Suicide bombings and mass shootings at multiple locations in Paris left at least 129 dead. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) took responsibility for the terror attack. A week later, the suspected leader of the attacks was killed in a police raid. Social media users adopted the phrase “Pray for Paris” in support of the city.

Dec. 14: “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” premiered at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles. It has grossed around \$1.9 billion, making it the highest grossing film of 2015 and currently the highest grossing film in North America.

Dec. 20: Host Steve Harvey announced the wrong winner at the 2015 Miss Universe pageant. Ariadna Gutiérrez of Colombia was initially given the crown, only to be told on live television that Harvey had announced the wrong name. The winner was actually Pia Wurtzbach of the Philippines.

This day in history

By DANIELLE STALLWORTH

On Jan. 21, 1999, The U.S. Coast Guard seized a ship on its way to Texas carrying over 9,500 pounds of cocaine. It was one of the biggest drug busts in U.S. history. The ship, a 580-foot Greek-owned freighter called “Cannes”, was transporting 26,000 metric tons of iron ore from Brazil to Houston, Texas. As stated in a New York Times article from 1999, Coast Guard officers boarded the ship in the Caribbean with permission from the captain. The first search team found nothing, but the second discovered footprints in the mountain of iron ore. This made

them suspicious, so they searched the iron ore until they found almost five tons of cocaine under it. “This amount of cocaine could put at least one dose of the drug in the hand of every schoolchild across America from preschool to high school,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater during a news conference at the Houston Ship Channel. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, the cocaine was worth \$186 million. Five of the 24 members of the ship’s crew were arrested, including the captain.



FREE

22 JAN

23 JAN

28 JAN

29 JAN

5 FEB

W RAY
BAD COLOGNE / TYGR BEAT

JW TELLER
PENNY DREADFULS / JAKE BEATY

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RATTLETRAP TRIO

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EVENTS



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Switching teams: iOS to Android

By JASMYNE RAY

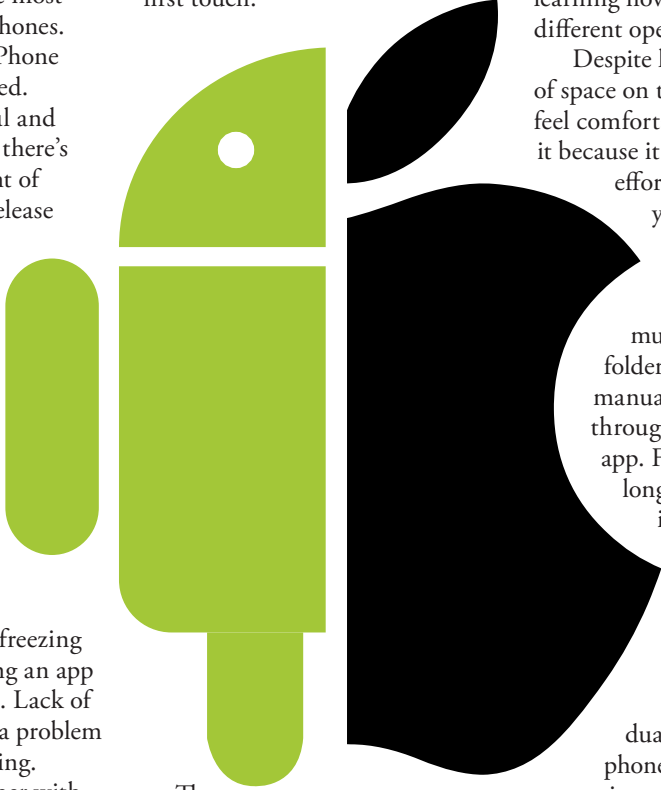
Change is good for the soul, whether it comes in the form of a new hairstyle or a new phone (or in my case both). After five years of faithfully being #TeamiPhone, I've made the switch to Android.

From what I've seen around campus, iPhones are the most commonly used smartphones. The uniformity of the iPhone is something I never liked. The phones are beautiful and elegantly designed, and there's always a massive amount of hype surrounding the release of a new model. But what makes them so special? The phone itself or the little Apple logo slapped on the back of it?

To get more technical, other reasons for wanting to switch were the constant iOS updates that seemed to correct nothing. My iPhone 5s was prone to freezing up in the middle of using an app and on the home screen. Lack of customization was also a problem for me from the beginning. Simply setting a wallpaper with a picture of a quote, favorite musician or funny moment with friends wasn't enough.

An immediate perk to switching, was having a wider option of phones to choose from. LG, Samsung, HTC; the options were endless. When I started shopping around for new phones,

I made a list of things that I wanted: it needed to have come out in the past year, have a camera with at least 12 megapixels, a fast operating system, decent-to-great battery life and an HD screen. Then I found it. I ended up going with the Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge+ and it was love at first touch.



The retina display on the iPhone was nice but was nothing in comparison to the Samsung's quad AMOLED HD display. The rear facing camera has 16 megapixels and a Pro setting that lets me adjust the ISO levels. It's like having a DSLR camera in your pocket. Currently, the

phone is operating on Android's Marshmallow operating system, and I can get a full day's use out of the phone before having to charge it.

There are some things that I miss about the iPhone though. The ease of use was something I had gotten used to, and now I'm learning how to use a completely different operating system.

Despite having 32 gigabytes of space on the Samsung, I don't feel comfortable syncing music to it because it takes so much extra effort to do so. To sync

your iTunes music files to your Android device, you have to either copy your music files to a separate folder and add them manually or sync them through the Google Music app. Facetime is also no longer a possibility, which is a shame because the Samsungs' 5 megapixel front facing camera would have come in handy for that. Because of the dual-curved edges of the phone, I have limited case options. This doesn't bother

me personally, but I can see this being a problem for people who enjoy collecting phone cases. Some things will take some getting used to, and I'll miss the cute little Apple logo. However, I'm completely satisfied with my choice.



BACK IN THE SADDLE

“Blockbuster Night Part 1” - Run the Jewels

There's no bones about this one. It's an utterly foul-mouthed tirade from two rappers convinced of their own superiority. Killer Mike and El-P present a bulletproof list of why they are better, why everyone else is not and what they are prepared to do in order to convince their opposers.

“Bulletproof Picasso” - Train

If you're looking for a sign to pursue your passions, this song is it. With heartfelt lyrics accompanied by the band's signature pop rock instrumentation, Train encourages their audience to live and love without reason.

“Go Big or Go Home” - American Authors

In this upbeat tune by American Authors, listeners are encouraged to either do everything to the fullest or to do nothing at all. When it comes to the upcoming semester's endeavors, hopefully everyone will choose the former.

“Let's Go Back” - Everyday Sunday

Get pumped and blast this awesome pop-punk song to get you back into the groove of class, friends and studying.

“Peaceful Easy Feeling” - The Eagles

School can be stressful, and sometimes even the smallest of workloads can make you feel like you're stranded out at sea. Go ahead and make a vow to take it easy this semester, and let this folksy California tune wash right over you.

“Texas Funeral” - Hop Along

Throat shredder Frances Quinlan roars the phrase “None of this is gonna happen to me!” like a battle cry against negative consequences. Whether you interpret it as a clear-eyed declarative pledge or a self-righteous admission of denial, it's hard not to get swept up in its anthemic stomp.

“Alright” - Kendrick Lamar

A rally cry against social injustice, this K-Dot anthem puts you in the mood to make a change. The monochromatic music video paints the song's radical lyrics vividly and even features a brave Lamar standing on top of a street lamp post.

“Seagull” - Ride

The opening track off the shoegazers' debut album, “Seagull” blasts forth and never stops once the screaming guitars of Andy Bell and Mark Gardener touch down. The song's lyrics depict a mind-bending transformation as “feathers fall to the floor” and the narrator flies into the air, leaving his opposition far below. It's a six minute sonic pummeling that feels good every single time.

“Rollercoaster” - Bleachers

Start your week off with the realization that life (all cliches aside) is a rollercoaster, full of highs and lows. Just remember to enjoy the ride and get ready for another great semester.

“Heroes” - David Bowie

In the wake of his tragic and untimely death, I can think of no better way to honor David Bowie's memory than to pump out this anthemic mid-seventies classic. So go ahead and be a hero, if only for one day.

New Starbucks established in library

By CANDICE CRUTCHFIELD

Chartwells is bringing Starbucks back to the University of Montevallo.

These two Starbucks carts are located on the bottom floor of Carmichael Library. Wade Walker, UM's director of budget and purchasing, spearheaded this change.

“I am extremely excited about the return of Starbucks,” Walker said. If the stand meets all the requirements of the Health Department, it should be open by Jan. 23 at the latest.

Kathy Lowe, the director of the library, says the new addition was meant to be finished before school resumed. The noise is Lowe's only concern with this new addition. The movable Starbucks will be separated from Carmichael's tutoring area with only a thin temporary wall.

The library will “invest in things that dampen the

noise,” Lowe said. One of these investments includes a sound-blocking panel that will be mounted on the ceiling above the area.

“There is an option for making the temporary wall permanent. We are also adding noise-reducing panels that should help. We are taking a wait and see attitude,” Lowe said.

Walker said the decision to bring back Starbucks after two years came out of opportunity.

“We had always planned on increasing our offering in the library. We hoped we could make Starbucks work, because of its popularity, and when Chartwells offered the cart, we thought it would be a great addition,” he said.

The Starbucks stand will be open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and will also offer “grab and go food,” according to Lowe.



Jasmyne Ray/ The Alabamian

The new Starbucks carts on the bottom floor of the library will be open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Calendar of Events

Upcoming

Thursday, Jan. 21 6:00 p.m. UPC Cokes and Strokes Napier Hall basement	Wednesday, Jan. 27 5 p.m. UPC Stuff a Friend College Night edition Anna Irvin Dining Hall
Friday, Jan. 22 2:00 p.m. Faculty Senate Committee meeting Merrill Room	Thursday, Jan. 28 6:00 p.m. College Night Sign Raising Farmer Hall
Saturday, Jan. 23 3:30 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. Georgia College Trustmark Arena	Friday, Jan. 29 Recycling Day City of Montevallo
5:30 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Georgia College Trustmark Arena	Saturday, Jan. 30 2 p.m. College Night Volleyball Myrick Gym
7:00 p.m. Movie: “The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Pt. 2” Farmer Student Life Center	Thursday, Feb. 4 4:00 p.m. Softball vs. Lee Softball field
Monday Jan. 25 Mr. & Ms. Montevallo Final Elections OrgSync	

Ongoing

Mondays 5:00 p.m. Water Aerobics SAC Pool 5:00 p.m. Zumba Bibb Graves Dance Studio 6:00 p.m. Spectrum Weekly Meeting Farmer Hall Meeting Room 7:00 p.m. Kickboxing Bibb Graves Dance Studio 7:00 p.m. Korean Culture Club meeting Reynolds 226 8:30 p.m. University of Montevallo Anime Club meeting Harman 120	Tuesdays, continued 7:30 p.m. Montevallo Organization of Gaming Harman 221, 225, 226, 229, 232 8:00 p.m. Resonate worship service Baptist Campus Ministry Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. Cafe Escape Baptist Campus Ministry 5:00 p.m. Water Aerobics SAC Pool 5:00 p.m. Zumba Bibb Graves Dance Studio 7:00 p.m. Kickboxing Bibb Graves Dance Studio 7:30 p.m. Chess Club of Montevallo Harman 232 8:00 p.m. Whovian Society Meeting Comer 205	Thursdays 5:00 p.m. Yoga Bibb Graves Dance Studio 7:00 p.m. Montevallo Cosplay Association Comer 308 7:30 p.m. Montevallo Organization of Gaming Harman 221, 225, 226, 229, 232 Fridays 5:00 p.m. Montage Weekly Meetings Student Publication Office
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